

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 654

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, OECD

SUBJECT: RUSSIAN INTEREST IN OECD MARKET INTELLIGENCE

PASS: USDA/W

1. DURING AG ATT'S COURTESY VISIT WITH MR. SIMANTOV, DIRECTOR OF OECD AGRICULTURAL DIRECTORATE, ON SEPTEMBER 18, MR.

SIMANTOV INFORMED MISSION OFFICER THAT HE HAD BEEN VISITED THE DAY BEFORE BY MR. VOLKOV, HEAD OF THE MARKET RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. MR. VOLKOV WAS INTERESTED IN AGRICULTURAL MARKET SITUATIONS AND OECD INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT.

2. SIMANTOV INQUIRED OF VOLKOV CONCERNING POSSIBLE SOVIET PURCHASES OF GRAINS DURING THE CURRENT MARKETING SEASON BUT RECEIVED NO QUANTITATIVE RESPONSE. INSTEAD, VOLKOV INDICATED THAT IMPORTS WOULD BE "NORMAL" AGAINST PURCHASES ALREADY MADE. SIMANTOV ALSO INQUIRED IF PURCHASES WERE PRIMARILY INTENDED FOR STOCK BUILDING PURPOSES TO WHICH VOLKOV RESPONDED NEGATIVELY, CONTENDING THAT SOVIET STOCK LEVELS HAD NOT BEEN REDUCED DURING THE 1972-73 SEASON.

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3. MISSION COMMENT: ACCORDING TO SIMANTOV THIS IS THE FIRST

CONTACT BY A HIGH LEVEL SOVIET OFFICIAL WITH OECD AGRICULTURAL DIRECTORATE AND SIMANTOV WAS OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED WITH VOLKOV'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETS SITUATION FOR CEREALS.

4. SIMANTOV ALSO WAS SURPRISED BY VOLKOV'S STATEMENT ON STOCKS SINCE OECD HAD UNDERSTOOD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THERE HAD BEEN A DRAWDOWN IN SOVIET CARRYOVER.

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